

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

04-340

Orleans

EAS.1267

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Eastham

Photograph



Address: 390 Cooks Brook Road

Historic Name: George and Martha Schreck House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1943

Source: Deed research, Eastham Tax Commitment Books

Style/Form: No Style/ Full Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete slab

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage/apartment (2002, Photo 2)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Addition (2001), solar panels (2018), new windows

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.15 acres

Setting: This large parcel is North Eastham is located at the eastern end of Cooks Brook Road where it transitions across Higgins Road into Silver Spring Beach Road. The flat parcel is open around the house but otherwise remains forested. The surrounding area includes modest houses built in the mid- to late-20th century.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

390 COOKS BROOK ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The George and Martha Schreck House, built in 1943, has the form of a Full Cape (a Cape is a form, not a style). As can be seen from the attached Assessor sketch (Figure 1), a narrow hyphen connects to a one-story, gable-front addition on the right (east) side. The elevations are clad in weathered wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and a small brick chimney rises off-centered from the roof ridge. The front roof slope has two small skylights and large arrays of solar panels. The front elevation has the five-bay configuration with a centered entrance typical of the Full Cape form. Both the front door and windows abut the frieze boards of the roof cornice. The windows all appear to be modern, thermal 1/1 replacements. The original windows were likely wood 6/6 double-hung sash. The front entrance is set in a simple surround. A covered walkway connects to the two-story garage/apartment (Photo 2).

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This house was built on land that was sold by William B. and Blanche E. Steele of Eastham. William Bradford Steele, Sr. (1855-1951) was active in real estate in Eastham. He was also a farmer and worked part-time as a barber. The Steeles sold this parcel in 1926 to James E. Murphy of Hartford, CT.¹ It does not appear that Murphy built the house. In his will, probated in 1940, he bequeathed to "his good friends, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Schreck, West Hartford, CT, the sum of One Thousand (\$1,000) Dollars and also a certain lot of land comprising one acre, situated in North Eastham, Cape Cod, Mass."

According to the Eastham Tax Commitment Books, this house was built by George Schreck in 1943. George E. Schreck was born in New Haven in 1891. He married Martha M. Elmlad in New Haven in 1916. According to census records, he worked in the insurance business. George Schreck died in 1965, and in 1971, Martha Schreck was living in West Hartford when she sold this property to their son, George R. Schreck of Pittsford, NY.² George R. Schreck died in 1993, and the house stayed in the Schreck family until his widow, Carol (Ackley), then living in Key West, FL sold the property in 1998 to Richard and Marguerite Burgoyne of Millbury, MA.³ In 2003, the Burgoynes sold this property to the current owners, Joel E. and Ann Sugdinis of Eastham.⁴

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 561/ Page 173.

² Book 1499/ Page 661.

³ Book 11170/ Page 279.

⁴ Book 16764/ Page 343.

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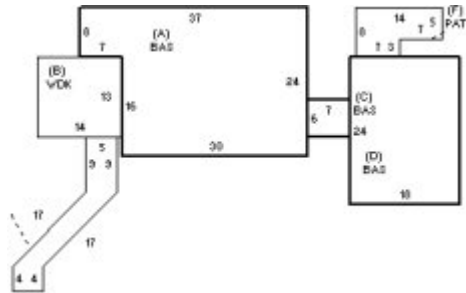


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View of outbuilding from Cooks Brook Road, looking northwest.